

It had periods of greater and less brightness, but for the most part was steady, something like a sunbeam among the clouds, and never had any approach to the rapid motion of the aurora.

Its colour was pale or whitish in its upper portion, or when it appeared contrasted with the dark sky; but in passing through the red, copper, or orange-coloured sky that prevailed lower down, it partook of its shade, and tinged the thin strata of cloud that lay across it with a brighter hue of their own colour. Fifty-five minutes was the longest period that it was visible any evening. I am told that it also appeared very bright some mornings before sunrise.

If the phenomenon was uncommon, so was the state of the atmosphere when it occurred. The drought was unprecedented; only about $\frac{1}{10}$ th of an inch of rain falling in April, which is about $\frac{1}{20}$ th of the average quantity in that month in previous years. The atmospheric pressure was great, the mercury never being lower than 30·07, nor higher than 30·32. The temperature was also high for the month, being 47°·64, or more than 4° above the average for April.

The atmosphere was very calm, and the sky near the horizon of that red or copper colour which generally indicates dry and warm weather, so that at last we could anticipate its appearance. I do not presume to explain the mode of its production, but these circumstances may assist others in so doing.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR MAY 1852.

Chiswick.—May 1. Overcast: cloudy: clear. 2. Cloudy and cold: frosty at night. 3. White clouds: fine: clear and frosty. 4. Dusky clouds: clear and frosty. 5. Densely clouded: clear and frosty at night. 6. Cloudy: clear. 7. Overcast: very fine. 8. Cloudy: fine. 9. Fine. 10. Fine: rain at night. 11. Boisterous, with heavy shower, partly hail. 12. Heavy rain: thunder. 13. Cloudy: overcast: boisterous at night. 14. Showery and boisterous: clear. 15, 16. Very fine. 17. Slight drizzle: overcast: thunder, lightning and rain at night. 18. Very fine: rain at night. 19. Very fine. 20. Hazy: fine: showers. 21. Overcast. 22. Cloudy: clear. 23. Cloudy. 24, 25. Overcast: fine. 26. Rain. 27. Overcast. 28. Densely clouded. 29. Rain. 30. Fine: cloudy. 31. Fine: cloudy: clear and cold.

Mean temperature of the month	51°·45
Mean temperature of May 1851	51·16
Mean temperature of May for the last twenty-six years ...	54·07
Average amount of rain in May	1·74 inch.

Boston.—May 1. Cloudy. 2. Cloudy: rain A.M. 3, 4. Cloudy. 5. Cloudy: rain A.M. 6. Cloudy. 7. Fine. 8. Cloudy. 9, 10. Fine. 11. Cloudy. 12—14. Cloudy: rain A.M. 15, 16. Fine. 17. Cloudy. 18. Cloudy: rain A.M. and P.M. 19. Cloudy: rain A.M. 20. Fine. 21. Cloudy: rain A.M. and P.M. 22—25. Cloudy. 26. Cloudy: rain P.M. 27—29. Cloudy. 30. Fine. 31. Cloudy.

Sandwich Manse, Orkney.—May 1. Cloudy: fine. 2. Clear: fine. 3. Cloudy: fine: clear: fine. 4. Cloudy: fine. 5. Drops: fine: cloudy: fine. 6. Clear: fine: cloudy: fine. 7. Drops: rain: clear. 8. Drops: showers. 9. Rain: clear. 10. Drops: clear: aurora. 11. Cloudy: showers. 12. Bright: clear. 13. Rain: clear: fine. 14. Bright: showers. 15. Clear: cloudy. 16. Clear. 17. Clear: fine. 18, 19. Clear: fine: aurora. 20—23. Clear: fine. 24. Bright: fine: clear: fine. 25. Clear: fine. 26. Cloudy. 27. Cloudy: fine. 28. Bright: cloudy: showers. 29. Bright: showers: cloudy: hail-showers. 30. Sleet-showers. 31. Sleet-showers: showers.—This month has been fine, warm and dry.

Mean temperature of May for twenty-five years previous ...	47°·88
Mean temperature of this month	50·49
Average quantity of rain in May for six years	1·72 inch.